

THOMAS

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on Thomas' computer depicted prepubescent girls having sex and performing other sexually explicit acts with adult males and other chil-

dren, according to the report. Thomas was arrested following a 10-month investigation carried out by a special task force, consisting of representatives from the FBI and several sheriffs' departments.

"I'm talking to seasoned detectives ... and they're telling me that what they've seen here is sickening. It's heavy stuff," Lee County Sheriff Mike Scott said following the nine arrests last month, the *Naples Daily News* reported.

Tantillo said he has not fielded any questions from parents, past students or

school employees regarding Thomas' arrest or his 31 years in the Duxbury schools.

"It's a terrible thing if it's true," Tantillo said. "I can't imagine they would have a giant ring like that without some evidence. I hope justice is served."

Former Duxbury gym teacher arrested in child porn sting

William Thomas accused of having hundreds of illegal files on computer in Florida

Gatehouse News Service

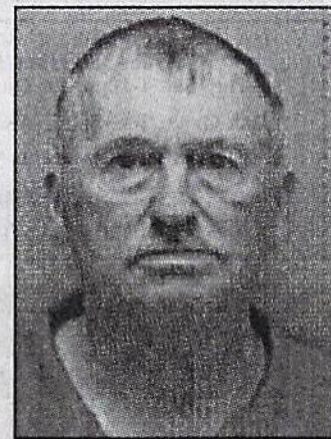
DUXBURY - A former Duxbury gym teacher who worked in the town's school system for three decades before his retirement in 2002 has been charged with possession of child pornography in Florida.

William Thomas, 65, of Fort Myers, Fla., was one of nine men arrested in a police sting last month, charged with circulating photos and videos of children engaging in sexually explicit conduct. Thomas was a physical education teacher at Duxbury Middle School and Alden Elementary School for 31 years and coached the high school's swimming and golf teams.

"Faculty who said they remember (Thomas) didn't think there was anything unusual about the man," Duxbury School Superintendent Benedict Tantillo, who joined the school system eight years after Thomas' retirement, said.

Thomas, arrested Oct. 5, has been charged with one count of possession with the intent to promote child pornography, a second-degree felony in Florida. He was released from police custody Oct. 6 on a \$25,000 bail bond.

He is due back in a Florida court Dec. 14.



William Thomas

Duxbury Police Chief Matthew Clancy said his department has not been contacted by law enforcement agencies in Florida, or elsewhere, regarding Thomas' case.

"There is no investigation in Duxbury related to current or former school personnel," Clancy said.

Last year, investigators found 490 questionable files on two Internet-provider addresses that were later linked to Thomas' Fort Myers home, according to a probable cause statement released by the Lee County court in Florida. The names of the suspect files were consistent with content believed to contain child pornography, detectives said.

Some of the videos found

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